2007 PISC Grant Award Yellowstone County

Presented to the SIGB December 13, 2011 Warren Dupuis





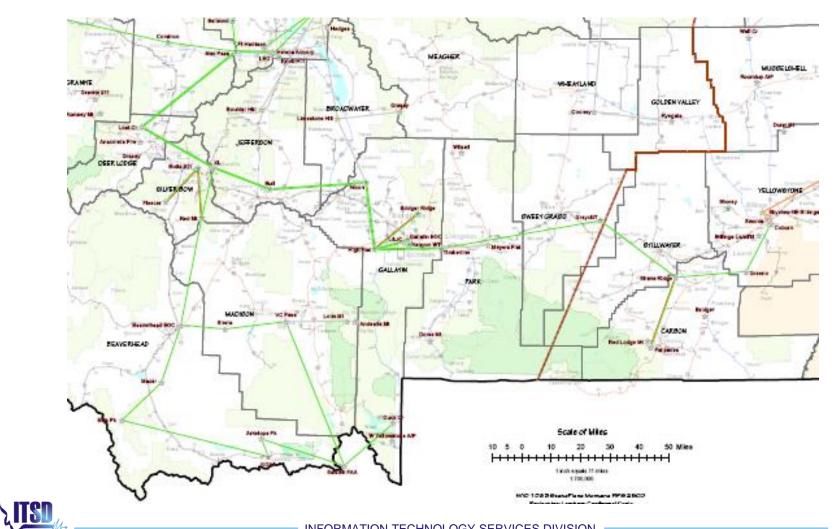
Background

- The 2007 Public Safety Interoperability Communications (PISC) grant was awarded to Yellowstone County to complete the work that remained not completed by Interoperability Montana on the Helena to SW Montana Microwave Loop and Helena to Billings Microwave route.
 - Investment Justification #1 was to complete the site development and install microwave hops between Helena and Billings.
 - Investment Justification #2 was to complete the site development and microwave hops between Helena and SW Montana.





Background





Current Status

- Investment Justification #2, site walks have been completed, punch lists have been completed by the contractor, Yellowstone County Project Manager is working with DES to close out IJ #2.
 - The following sites are now operational and being used; XL Heights, Red Mountain, Duck Creek, VC Pass, Sawtell, Antelope Peak, Ellis, Maurer, Sierra, and Kona
- Investment Justification #1, site walks have been completed, punch lists have been completed by the contractor, and the Yellowstone County Project Manager is working with DES to close out IJ #1.
 - The following sites are now operational and being used; XL Heights, Bull Mountain, Nixon, High Flat, Timberline, Graycliff, Shane Ridge, Greeno and Colburn.





Problem Statement

 Numerous changes in site selection and funding sources for the N.E. Billings site by Interoperability Montana (IM) have resulted in an inability to verify a documentation trail indicating that Environmental and Historical Protection (EHP) submittals, and modification requests affecting the site at NE Billings have been approved by DHS grants office.





What is at Risk

- This affects the proposed site development and infrastructure improvements at NE Billings
 - including the acquisition and installation of the Microwave equipment between Colburn and NE Billings.
- Yellowstone County's ability to execute the EHP and complete the infrastructure and microwave work within the grant performance period.
 - Ability to execute within the grant performance period would result in significant financial risk for Yellowstone County





Issue

- It is critical that we keep build-out of the microwave backbone to support the Montana Public Safety Communications System moving forward.
- NE Billings Site is a critical component of the build-out supporting the backbone and communications projects affecting Yellowstone County and the City of Billings





Mitigation Strategy

- Modify the Grant Award to Yellowstone County. DES and SITSD are working with Yellowstone County to better define the scope of work, funding plans and project timelines.
- Separate the NE Billings site development, infrastructure improvements and installation of the Colburn to NE Billings microwave equipment through a different funding source than the PISC grant.





Recommendations

- PISC Grant:
 - Complete IJ-2
 - Complete IJ-1
 - Outstanding issues:
 - Acquisition of the Microwave Equipment between Coburn and NE Billings. The State Grant's Office is determining if this equipment can be purchased and stored. Installation of the Microwave equipment would be at a later date and be funded out of a different funding source
 - Based on communications between the DES Grant's Office and FEMA Grant's
 Office, the funding of the NE Billings infrastructure build-out was never approved
 under the PSIC grant and an EHP screening form for the NE Billings
 infrastructure wasn't submitted. A NEPA approval must be obtained before any
 work can proceed.





Recommendations (Cont.)

- A grant application will be submitted for the planning of the site development at NE Billings including Environmental and Historic Protection (EHP) studies, soil samples, infrastructure design, development of bid documents, contract award, and other planning work.
 - Projected cost \$51,640
- The IECGP-2010 grant would be used to fund the award.
 - The state was awarded \$235,589.
 - Use of this grant would leave a balance of \$183,949 to be reobligated for other planning needs





Recommendations (Cont.)

- A new grant application would be submitted for the buildout of the NE Billings site
 - This application also includes the cost to install the microwave equipment for the Colburn to NE Billings hop.
 - Total Projected Cost \$597,759
- The HSGP-2010 Grant would be used to fund the award.





Discussion

- The NE Billings Planning and NE Billings Build-out projects will be treated as two distinct projects with their own start, middle and end dates.
 - As a result, the NE Billings application submittal will be tied to the EHP approvals being received from the FEMA Grant's Office.
- Following the same planning and funding processes for future projects will result in:
 - better utilization of planning and project grants
 - project plans would be more complete
 - able to better predict opportunity for success based on scope, time and funding.



Questions?



